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a Lesson in the University of The New Covenant
Theodore Cottingham, July 29, 2003
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1. Rules. Rules. Rules. Such rules. Such mandates. Man wants to live by rules, principles, mandates, prescription formulas devised for them by other men, other women, other people who have stood up and said 'This is the way it is, follow me and my rules. My rules will set you free.'

2. Ted, rules set no one free. Rules enslave when regarded as master, designer, creator. No one Ted, no one can keep all the rules of any set of rules, not always. It's inherently contradictory to the design I placed within man. And Ted, when I say man, I always mean mankind, which includes My men, My women, My boys and My girls. And if I don't mean so, I will delineate thus.

3. Rules Ted, rules enslave because no one can keep all the rules and guilt comes. No one is good enough, rigid enough, inflexible enough, to abide by every rule all the time.

4. Man wants a king. Man wants to be spoon-fed, mostly, all his life. Maturity is seldom set as a life objective, in Me, or in not of Me.

5. So many want to just be told what to do, when to do it, how to do it, and have all actions and thinking done for them by someone else. They abdicate the very adventure of relationship I provide and designed into their fabric. That's why so many are so miserable. They're trying to follow the rules rather than The Rule Maker/The Rule Breaker.

6. Ted, I break all the rules. I break all the rules. I break all of man's rules. That's why I offended so many. That's why I still offend so many. I do not abide by their rules.

7. I am God. I am not man. I came as a man but I am not man. I came as a man and I was man and I abided by their rules for a time. But Ted, maturity will always supersede rules at some point, for the maturity-seeker, the maturity-seeker, the maturity-seeker.

8. Please keep seeking maturity Ted. You have sought Me—maturity—so diligently, putting all you are, all you have, at risk, jeopardizing all most hold dear, for Me, for maturity, for advancement at My knee, My breast, My ear. You have sought Me—maturity, and you will propel many in seeking-Me-maturity and maturing and propelling them to pay the price of maturing in Me.

9. Rule-makers must lean how to develop and free their adherents to live by values and relationship—values in relationship—for maturity to mature, else bondage ensues to enslave the rule-keeper.

10. Ted, you know you are on to something so big in Me, and you know Bruce is too. I love Bruce and I am raising him up. I love Christie and I am raising them up. I am raising them up and I am raising you up and I am raising you up together, with others, many others, to proclaim this message of maturity and how maturity must be sought to be obtained.

11. Maturity does not evolve, not in Me, not in anything. That's why so many adults, older adults, are so immature in Me, and in other areas of life. They segment Me from those other areas of their life and then they try to abide by another's rules and never think, they never apply, the gifts I gave them.

12. They have to choose. They have to choose. They have to choose to mature—to mature.

13. Maturity scares many leaders, for in their own smallness they think, believe, and act on the false presumption that their own position of authority is vulnerable if all their followers become free.

14. Ted, the strength is in the freedom, not in the slavery. The strength is in the freedom, not in the slavery. Mercenaries run when battles get too hot, too dangerous for them. Mercenaries flee for they are connected by mammon, not by Me, not by their heart, not by their passion, not by the design which empowers and sets free.

15. Rules, rules, rules. So many want to live by the rules and mandates of men of old, men of now, anyone who will point them the way, when all the time, I am there, I am there, I am there with them, beside them, waiting for them to call out to Me so I can set them free and propel them with My thoughts in them, rather than another man's thoughts in them.

16. I wait. I wait. I come. I call. I wait. I woo. I adjure. I exhort. I subdue. I wait. I protect. I wait. I call. I come. I wait. I speak and want to be heard so badly.

17. I made rules Ted, but the rules of the heart, the rules in the heart, always supersede in actions - rules external.

18. Rules rule, Ted. Rules rule people—I set them free. But so many are afraid of Me. They're afraid of Me. They're afraid to think for themselves and use the gifts I gave them. They're afraid of maturity. They're afraid to ask questions. They're afraid to confront. They're afraid, afraid, afraid.

19. Oh Ted, I didn't design My creation to be afraid or live in fear. Oh Ted, I am Freedom. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, I am, in liberty, freedom. Freedom for those mature enough to lay hold on My freedom instead of sucking from a bottle the milk of the rules. As a baby at the breast, as a baby on a bottle, as a baby in life and adulthood, are so many that could be living in My big world and enjoying connections and relationships and globalizing lifestyles that provide freedom to others while building maturity in themselves.

20. Oh Ted, I am Freedom. I am not rules.
I am the new, not the old.
I am ever new, I was never old.

21. I am the new and living Covenant and I write My name and My laws on the internal parts of the seat of authority in the innermost parts of those who will let Me, providing and clarifying the path to freedom, their own individual path to freedom, freedom, freedom, freedom.

22. So many rule-makers and rule-livers think they are free because the rule-makers tell them they are free. Centuries of liars have not the truth because they haven't sought Me with their whole heart, paying the price for maturing in Me, all the while making disciples of their milk-driven, rule-driven process, proclaiming to all, this is freedom.

23. Freedom, freedom, freedom. You wanted more on freedom and I will give you so much more. I will speak to you about freedom often and mature you as you continue to quest for maturity—maturity in Me, in Me, in Me, in My kingdom, in My value system, operating in what's important to Me, the way I operate, leaving behind the rules of man and their kingdom-enslaving-poverty-of-spirit-developing rules.

24. I gave you a mind. I want you to use it.
I gave you gifts. I want you to use them.
I can stand up to any scrutiny, any question, any inquiry, any challenge.
I am Me and I am not decrepit or outdated.
I am that I am and I am is moving and new I am, and always have been.

25. Ted, this is your day. But Ted, this is My day. This is My day to freedomize and globalize all who will come to Me and seek Me for correction and let Me speak to them so tenderly, in love, in precious love, in true love, and whisper those things to them that are in error—that encroach on their freedom I died to give them, that rob, kill, and destroy their ability to reproduce Me so freely in all their seed, all they do, all they create, all they influence.

26. Oh Ted, I whisper, I whisper, I whisper in My chambers. I do not yell. I do not demand. I do not command. I whisper. I whisper. Oh, I whisper softly because in My chambers your ear is so close to My voice. When you worship Me afar off

you cannot hear My voice, even though I speak so often, and even when you hear Me, you don't recognize Me, for it floats among all the other voices that are trying to drive you.

27. I lead. I nourish. I embrace. I mature.
I want you to lead. I want you to nourish. I want you to embrace. I want you to mature.

28. I want you to lead, oh hearer. I want you to nourish, oh reader. I want you all to embrace Me and My freedom and My message to you this day, again from Bartlett Square, and all, all, all—I want you to mature.

29. Seek not My rules, seek not My principles, seek Me—and let Me provide you the fulfillment you seek so desperately. I only can fulfill the longing in your heart for significance, for acceptance, for deeply fulfilling friendships that yield joy of spirit in synergy with Me.

30. Oh Ted, graduate My people from rule-living to maturity-living. Help Me alive My people and emotion them and think and develop and mature in Me, by the power of My Holy Spirit.

31. Those who want to continue to live by rules—let them. Criticize them not. Allow all to operate in the choices they make.

32. I come. I call. I confirm. And I create, and Ted, I mature. Those who will come after Me and deny themselves and take up their cross daily—those Ted—those who seek Me as silver and gold, and yea, so much more, oh Ted, I shower, I shower, I rain on them My Me—and maturity ensues—for those, for those, for those only—who are not afraid to come into My presence and present themselves—wholly, totally, unreservedly, naked in spirit, withholding nothing, and asking Me to correct them.

33. I was a teacher. I am a teacher and I love to teach. I share, I speak, I empathize, but I don't compartmentalize. I globalize, I freedomize and exchange hearts with My students—My students that will come and quest to know Me, quest to know Me, quest to know Me—rather than just following the rules.

34. I rule Ted, but I don't live by rules. I rule by relationship. I rule by love. I rule by who I am, not just what I do. I am the great I am. I am the only I am. I am. I am. I am.

35. Tell them I am wants to know them more.
Tell them I am wants to call their name like I'm always calling yours.
I gave you your name, Theodore, which is of Me.
You've chosen Ted, to be called Ted, but that's okay. I call you Mine.
I call you Ted because I respect your choices.

36. Ted, tell them I respect their choices, and I mature no one who does not choose Me—maturity—Me—Me—Me. I respect their choice.

37. I came. I called. I died. I live. I come now and I call now and I create and impart like never before, bringing My bread and wine, and friendship, and authorship, and creatorship, and relationship, across My body, throughout My body, if they will let Me.

38. They can sit with Me, tell them. Tell them Ted, tell them they can sit at table with Me, at My table, and I will bring and break bread and wine with them, or they can continue to sit at table with their rule-makers, and partake of what they can give them.

39. Tell them they have a choice.

40. And even though all seems so quiet on the home front of many readers and hearers of this message—My words to you this day—in Bartlett Square—My Spirit moves, My Spirit hovering, My Spirit broods, and My Spirit creates, and My Spirit matures, and My Spirit waits for every pant of every heart that will open to Me for even a moment—for warfare comes Ted. Discomfort comes. Perplexity comes for those with no roots—rule adherers who know Me only in rules, rather than in the intimacy of My chambers where I whisper and touch and heal and salve and correct and mature, and enjoy each other as lovers.

41. Tell them time is short. I come, I call, I confirm, I create, and Ted, I mature. Ask them to choose to mature in Me and disappoint them I won't. My riches, My grandeur, My splendor, My table with Me—I open all of Me to My beloved, My beloved, My beloved.

42. Oh My beloved, please come to Me and let Me honor you, bless you, heal you, put My robe on you, put My jewelry on you, clothe you with Me of Mine, for Mine, for Him, for us, for you.

43. Do this in remembrance of Me—oh Ted, tell them, teach them, free them, empower them, mature them, by putting their hand in Mine and letting them partake and share 'in remembrance of Me,' and Ted, alive I will make them, in newness of life, in newness of existence in My big world.

44. Bring them to My table, My table, My table, and let Me take them into My chambers, and Ted, so sweet, so sweet, so sweet. So sweet, so sweet, so sweet. Ted, beyond all your earthly offerings is My presence. You know that. Some know that. Help all to know that.

45. Kneel before Me and I will kneel before you. I will stand and take your hand and lift you up—let Me lift you, let Me mature you, let Me teach and mature, and you will be glad and I will be glad.

46. Tell them this, tell them this, tell them all, this, this day, this 29th day of July, 2003, this day I come, I call, I confirm, I create, and I mature.

47. Thank you to all who receive Me, and come, come, come.
Come, come, come.
Please come. Please come. Please come.
Please.
Thank you.
I thank you.
I thank you.